

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

21. (Currently amended) A content addressable memory (CAM) device comprising:
a CAM core to output a local priority number; and
a cascade logic circuit coupled to the CAM core to receive the local priority number
and having an input to receive at least one remote priority number from
another CAM device, the cascade logic circuit being configured to compare
the local priority number and the at least one remote priority number at one of
a plurality of different times selected in response to a control value that
indicates a disposition of the CAM device within a hierarchy of
interconnected CAM devices..
33. The CAM device of claim 31 wherein the cascade logic circuit is further configured
to disable the match address from being output from the CAM device if the remote
priority value has a higher priority than the local priority value or if the first enable
signal is in a second state.